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FROM: TOKYO

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1623, NOVEMBER 27, 9 PM (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

PRIORITY

FOR CHAYES

DEPTEL 1370

FOLLOWING IS SNYDER STATEMENT:

TO MY BEST RECOLLECTION I HAD TWO PERSONAL INTERVIEWS WITH OSWALD, ONE ON HIS FIRST VISIT TO EMBASSY TO ANNOUNCE HIS DEFECTION, SECOND A NUMBER OF MONTHS LATER WHEN HE REVISITED EMBASSY TO SOUND OUT POSSIBILITIES RETURNING TO UNITED STATES. IN ADDITION, I CONDUCTED SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM. ALL ASPECTS OF ABOVE WERE COVERED IN MY REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT. I WAS SOLE OFFICER HANDLING OSWALD CASE. FOLLOWING IS MY ROUGH RECOLLECTION TWO INTERVIEWS:

FIRST INTERVIEW:

(PRECISE DATE ON RECORD IN DEPARTMENT.) OSWALD VISITED EMBASSY ON OWN INITIATIVE AND WAS REFERRED TO ME AS SENIOR CONSULAR OFFICER. (FOLLOWING REMARKS NOT NECESSARILY IN ORDER.) OSWALD STATED IN EFFECT THAT HE WISHED TO GIVE UP HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP, THAT HE INTENDED TO BECOME A SOVIET CITIZEN AND TO SERVE SOVIET STATE, THAT HE WAS DOING THIS BECAUSE "I AM A MARXIST", THAT HE CONDEMNED OUR GOVERMENT AND POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES AS IMPERIALISTIC, THAT HE ADMIRED THE SYSTEM AND POLICIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND DESIRED TO SERVE THE SOVIET STATE.

HE DELIVERED OVER HIS AMERICAN PASSPORT TO ME, AND SAID THAT

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HE WANTED TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS TO RENOUNCE HIS AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP. HE STATED DESIRE TO CONCLUDE MATTER QUICKLY, THAT HE HAD BEEN FOREWARNED I WOULD TRY TALK HIM OUT OF DECISION, THAT HE WANTED NO LECTURES FROM ME, DESIRED ENTER INTO NO DISCUSSION. I NEVERTHELESS ELICITED FOLLOWING FROM HIM.

OSWALD STATED HE HAD JUST COMPLETED TOUR DUTY WITH U.S. MARINE CORPS, I BELIEVE IN OKINAWA OR JAPAN OR BOTH, THAT HIS INTENT TO DEFECT TO THE SOVIET UNION WAS FIRM BEFORE HE [illegible] HE APPLIED FOR AN AMERICAN PASSPORT FOR THIS PURPOSE (ALTHOUGH NOT SO STATED ON HIS APPLICATION) IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL IN US, I BELIEVE SAN FRANCISCO OR LOS ANGELES, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE. I BELIEVE HE STATED HE PAID BRIEF VISIT TO TEXAS BEFORE DEPARTING FOR SOVIET UNION VIA WESTERN EUROPE.

SOURCE HIS "MARXISM", I BELIEVE HE ATTRIBUTED TO "SOME BOOKS" AND OTHER MATERIALS HE HAD WHILE IN MARINE CORPS AND POSSIBLY BEFORE. OSWALD STATED HIS EYES HAD BEEN OPENED TO THE WAY AMERICA OPPRESSES AND COLONIZES FOREIGN PEOPLES FROM OBSERVING OUR ACTIONS IN OKINAWA. HE REFERRED THROUGHOUT IN CONDEMNATORY AND CONTEMPTUOUS TONES TO HIS OWN COUNTRY AND IN LAUDATORY TERMS TO SOVIET UNION. I RECALL STRONG IMPRESSION HE USED SIMPLE MARXIST STEREOTYPES WITHOUT SOPHISTICATION OR INDEPENDENT FORMULATION. HE REFERRED, I BELIEVE, TO EARLIER POVERTY AND HARD LIFE OF MOTHER AS PARTIAL RATIONALE FOR ATTITUDES. AT SAME TIME I BELIEVE I HAD IMPRESSION HE HAD LITTLE AFFECTION FOR AND FELT NO PARTICULAR OBLIGATION TOWARD HIS MOTHER.

OSWALD STATED THAT HE WAS AN ELECTRONICS SPECIALIST OR SOMETHING SIMILAR IN MARINES AND THAT HE INTENDED MAKE ALL HIS SPECIALIZED KNOWLEDGE AVAILABLE TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT, IN EFFECT DECLARING INTENTION COMMIT A DISLOYAL ACT. I BELIEVE HE DID NOT CLAIM TO POSSESS KNOWLEDGE OR INFORMATION OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED NATURE.

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I DID NOT TAKE OSWALD'S RENUNCIATION ON THAT DAY, GIVING HIM AS REASON, I BELIEVE, THAT EMBASSY THEN CLOSED AND PREPARA[illegible] OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED SOME TIME. I TOLD HIM THAT IF THAT HIS INTENT RENUNCIATION COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED FOLLOWING DAY OR ANY OTHER TIME HE APPEARED WHEN EMBASSY OPEN. REAL REASON NOT TOLD OSWALD WAS THAT IN MY JUDGMENT COMMON SENSE AND SOUND PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE ADVISE AGAINST IMMEDIATE ACTION ON REQUESTS FOR RENUNCIATION OF CITIZENSHIP WHERE SUCH ACTION BY CONSUL MIGHT IN EFFECT ABET INDIVIDUAL ACTING NOT OF SUDDEN QUIXOTIC OR IRRATIONAL IMPULSE OR OTHER TRANSIENT INFLUENCE TO COMMIT PROFOUNDLY ILL ACT OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE. THIS A PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION MOSCOW WHICH MAGNET FOR DERELICTION-PRONE QUIXOTIC TYPES OF UNCERTAIN MENTALITY AND DOUBTFUL EMOTIONAL STABILITY. FURTHER CONSIDERATION IS POTENTIAL POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WHICH CAN RESULT FROM RENUNCIATION BY SUCH PERSON NOT POSSESSING PERMANENT SOVIET RESIDENT STATUS. (EARLIER PETRULLI CASE ILLUSTRATES POINTS.)

OSWALD DID NOT PRESENT HIMSELF AT THE EMBASSY AGAIN BEFORE DEPARTING FROM MOSCOW FEW DAYS LATER BUT I HAD ONE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIM ADDRESSED TO HOTEL IN MOSCOW WHERE HE STAYED. THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS IN DEPARTMENT'S RECORDS.

REISCHAUER

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